

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 001044

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

STRATEGIES REPORT

¶11. SUMMARY: A COLUMNIST IN "AL-KHALEEF" DESCRIBED THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIES REPORT AS A REPORT THAT CONSISTS OF EVERYTHING EXCEPT A STRATEGY. AN "AL-KHALEEF" EDITORIAL NOTED THE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIES REPORT FOLLOWS THE NEW CONSERVATIVES' DISASTROUS IDEOLOGIES AND WONDERED WHY ISRAEL WAS NOT INCLUDED AS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES POSING A DANGER TO THE REGION, AS IT IS THE ONLY COUNTRY PROVEN TO POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

¶12. Under the headline "National Security Strategies report: Acrobatics", a columnist, Saad Mehio, wrote on Sharjah-based Pan-Arab daily "Al-Khaleej," (circulation 85,000) 3/18:

"The National Security Force Strategies report for year 2006 which was released few days ago included everything except a Strategy. The 48-page document looked closer to the State Department's statements President Eisenhower once described as 'do not say anything'. ...With its year 2006 release, almost everything has changed. It is true that preemptive wars and the war on terror has not stopped, yet they are no longer deemed to be the guiding principles of American policy. It is also true that the war on terror and Islamic extremism is still important, yet it has now moved from the first priority on the list. Now the main concentration is directed towards Iran, as it represents USA's biggest challenge in the world. Russia has turned from a strategic ally into a non-democratic country which needs to be warned of the consequences of its domestic and foreign policies. Moreover, China has become a power threatening America's control over energy and its resources in the world. Next is Syria, which was removed from the list of problem countries in the 2002 document, only to stand out as a major problem in this year's report. Syria is still Syria. No one knows why the picture has changed during so much in this short period of time..."

¶13. Under the headline "Propagating the new conservatives' disasters", Sharjah-based Pan-Arab daily "Al-Khaleej," (circulation 85,000) editorialized 3/18:

"In compiling the U.S. National Security Strategy we assumed the United States would have learned something from its failures over the past 4 years. That it would have learned from its blatant use of force and preemptive wars on other countries under the pretext of a war on terrorism. These failure projects themselves very clearly throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. However, it seems that this administration adheres to its approach of war and confrontation. It assumes that its incomparable force, in the absence of any parallel power, enables it to build its imperial dream of becoming the only force that is capable of establishing an international system subject to its authority. This report described some countries as posing a threat to international security, but did not include Israel, naturally, as it is the only country in this region that possesses nuclear weapons, executes terrorism and violates human rights on a daily basis. It is not expected that Israel would be one of the countries mentioned in the report, as it is a country that is implementing U.S. strategies in the region and is the first benefit from them... The United States is hijacking international law and uses it in accordance with its own interests, without international legitimacy, keeping in mind the principle "The right is created in the exercise of power." This means that the Bush Administration is following the new conservative ideology of extremism and is determined to embrace its policy of expansion and disaster similar to what has happened in Iraq and Afghanistan."

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